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Solar Powered Village Kick - Starts Development Goals

More than 1.7 billion people around the world have no domestic electricity supply, of whom more than 500 million live in sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank). Without electricity, many development goals remain dreams that will never be achieved.

But in a first for India, a village is now entirely powered by solar energy, kick-starting its development and reversing the decline common to many villages.

Rampura village in the state of [Uttar Pradesh](#) had previously been without electricity. But its move to solar power has boosted school performance, brought new economic opportunities for women, and even made the buffalo produce more milk! By getting up early, the buffalo can be fed more before day breaks.

Being able to see at night unleashes a vast range of possibilities, but for the very poor, lighting is often the most expensive household expense, soaking up 10 to 15 percent of income.

There's a direct link between lighting and economic development. Each 1 per cent increase in available power will increase GDP by an estimated 2 to 3 per cent.

In India, 600,000 villages still lack electricity. Despite the country's impressive economic gains - growth of over 9 percent per year for the last three years, although that rate is now slowing - the levels of poverty in the country's villages have driven millions to flee to the sprawling slum zones of India's cities.

Rampura was set up with solar power by a project of [Development Alternatives](#), a New Delhi-based NGO working on promoting "sustainable national development". Using US \$1,406,000 from Norwegian solar power company [Scatec Solar](#), it installed 60 solar panels to power 24 batteries. The village's 69 houses are directly connected to the solar plant.

According to [Greenpeace](#), India could generate 10 percent of its electricity from solar power by 2030.

Manoj Mahata, the project's programme director, said half of India's 600,000 villages without electricity can now have the option of solar power.

A steady electricity supply means children are extending their study time past daylight hours. Nine-year-old Aja told the Sunday Times: "I like watching television and the light at night means I can read."

For women, the light brought by electricity means they can take on new business opportunities to boost income. "I want to start a sewing business with other women to make tablecloths and blouses," said mother of three Gita Dave.

"Even the buffalo are producing more milk because people can feed before dawn," said Ghanshyam Singh Yadav, president of Rampura's energy committee.

"This is not rocket science. This is simple," says Katja Nordgaard, director for off-grid projects at Scatec.

"The model is relatively cheap, and it is easy to operate and maintain. It can be built in three to four weeks, and can easily be scaled up if the demand for electricity increases.

"People in India are already paying when they need to charge cell phones, and for the kerosene they use in their lamps. The willingness to pay for energy is relatively high here, especially when that energy is reliable."

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In Bangladesh, more than 230,000 households are now using solar power systems thanks to the government's Infrastructure Development Company Ltd. (IDCOL), giving rise to opportunities for a whole new generation of entrepreneurs to make use of this new power supply for the poor. IDCOL is run by the Ministry of Finance, and is on course to install 1 million Solar Household Systems (SHS) using solar panels by 2012. The Bangladeshi government is hoping to bring electricity to all its citizens by 2020 - meaning this is now a prime time for entrepreneurs specializing in providing energy efficient products to the poor.

Another initiative to boost development in India's rural villages is the concept of the [Model Village India](#), previously profiled by Development Challenges (November 2008).

Links

- Lighting Africa: this website run by the World Bank is a virtual business community and has forums, market intelligence, access to grants, network and partnership opportunities.
[Website: lightingafrica.org](#)
- D.light Design is dedicated to bringing modern lighting and power to more than 1.6 billion people globally currently living without electricity. They aim to be the number one player in off-grid lighting and power solutions worldwide.
[Website: http://www.dlightdesign.com/](#)
- Solar Power Answers is a one-stop-shop for everything to do with solar power. It has a design manual and guides to the complex world of solar power equipment.
[Website: www.solar-power-answers.co.uk](#)
- Unleashing India's Innovation: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, a report by the World Bank.
[Website: web.worldbank.org](#)

Rainforest Gum Gets Global Market

Mexico is home to the second largest rainforest in the Americas after the Amazon jungle. But the country's forests face serious threats from logging, cattle ranching and agriculture. As much as 80 percent of Mexico's original forests have already been lost.

A group of Mexican farmers is now using sophisticated product marketing to preserve their income, and the 1.3 million hectares of rainforest as well. They are called chicleros and they harvest the gum needed to make natural chewing gum, a once-booming industry laid waste by the arrival of synthetic chewing gum in the 1950s. Their story is an excellent example of how a declining industry can turn things around with a smart plan and sophisticated marketing.

A collection of 56 cooperatives comprising 2,000 chicleros - called Consorcio Chiclero - is now making, marketing and selling its own brand of chewing gum: [Chicza](#). The chicleros are supporting a community of 10,000 people across the three states of Yucatán, Campeche and Quintana Roo.

Gum has been chewed in Mexico to clean teeth as far back as the ancient Mayan people in the second century AD.

The gum harvesting business was dying out and young people, put off by the low pay, were leaving for jobs elsewhere. The administrators of the chiclero co-operative created Chicza Rainforest Gum brand to save the industry. They made a deal with Britain's Waitrose supermarket chain, which specializes in fair trade products, and the gum is being launched in 100 stores.

The brightly coloured packages of chewing gum are now being sold as organic and a way to preserve the forest. Frustrated by the decades of decline and attendant poverty and community decay, the chicleros decided to take matters into their own hands. Five years ago they decided to avoid the middlemen who would buy their raw gum products, and instead manufacture and market the chewing gum themselves. And it is paying off: by adding value to the raw product, each farmer's income has grown six times higher than he would earn as a mere provider of raw material.

The gum comes in three flavours: wild mint, heirloom lime and spearmint. Future flavours will blend tropical fruits, herbs and spices.

The Consorcio Chiclero coordinates the production, the logistics, the trade and the finances for the manufacture of gum from the chicozapote tree (Manilkara zapota).

Certified organic, the Chicza gum is completely natural and free of synthetic ingredients and also biodegrades when it is discarded - a boon to city governments who hate the mess and cost of traditional gum left on sidewalks.

The farmers work in the rainforest at the southern end of Mexico's [Yucatan peninsula](#), bordering Guatemala and Belize. It is a place with one of the most bio diverse ecosystems in the world, and an environment the farmers are in harmony with. The

chicle gum (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicle>) is harvested from chicozapote trees - some living for more than 300 years - by hacking z-shaped cuts into the bark of the 100 foot trees. The harmless cuts zig zag down the tree and a bucket is placed at the bottom to collect the dripping sap.

Once collected, the sap is boiled, dried and made into a sticky paste, which is then kneaded and shaped into bricks called marquetas. Each marqueta is carefully marked by its maker. Since the sustainable management of their rainforests is certified by FSC ([Forest Stewardship Council](#)), these marks contain relevant information that tells the name of the chiclero who harvested it, and the exact location of the harvested tree in the rainforest. Few products offer such perfect traceability.

"I started following my dad around the rainforest when I was 10 and working when I was 12," farmer Porfirio Banos told The Guardian newspaper. "I am a chiclero to my core."

Working in a remote area of rainforest jungle with just spider monkeys for company, the chileros are paid by the amount of chicle harvested.

"We don't kill the trees like farmers do when they clear land to grow corn or graze cattle," says Roberto Aguilar, 60. "We leave a wound, it's true, but eight years after it is healed and producing chicle again."

The chileros face two main risks while doing the job: falling from the trees if their rope gives out; and being bitten by poisonous snakes.

Chicle was once the basis of all commercial chewing gum. Beginning in New York 141 years ago, it was the only source for chewing gum until the 1950s, when synthetic substitutes destroyed the industry.

It was the economic desperation of a Mexican general, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, living in exile in the United States in 1869, that gave birth to gum-chewing as a global practice. Working with a local inventor, Thomas Adams, he tried to use the chicle to make a rubber substitute. But when this failed, Adams added sugar and flavouring, making chewing gum.

Apart from being a great chew, the natural gum's unique selling point is saving money: local governments tight for cash are looking for other ways to deal with the menace of chewing gum on pavements. A small fortune is spent every year trying to keep streets clean of gum. The British alone spend over UK £150 million every year trying to clean their streets of chewing gum.

And despite the global recession, the chileros are optimistic they can do well: during the Great Depression of the 1930s, chewing gum was an affordable treat and sold well.

Links

- Design that Matters: Timothy Prestero, CEO (Cambridge, MA): Design that Matters (DTM) was founded to help social enterprises in developing countries scale up enterprises more quickly by providing them access to better products designed specifically for their business needs.
[Website: www.designthatmatters.org](http://www.designthatmatters.org)
- An audio slideshow about how the organic gum tappers of Calakmul , Mexico have organised their come-back as a business.
[Website: www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)
- A brief history of chewing gum around the world.
[Website: inventors.about.com](http://inventors.about.com)
- The Fairtrade Labelling Organization sets the standards for fair-trade and is the place to go to receive official certification.
[Website: www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)
- International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation: The ICAO is the democratic organisation representing agricultural co-operatives and farmers worldwide.
[Website: www.agricoop.org/](http://www.agricoop.org/)
- Waitrose Supermarket: It regularly sources fair trade and organic food products from the global South.
[Website: www.waitrose.com](http://www.waitrose.com)

Disabled Congolese Musicians Become World Hit

A group of Congolese musicians is using music to overcome obstacles - both economic and social - that come with being disabled in a poor country. Called Staff Benda Bilili, they are on course to be a global sensation and are looking forward to their first European tour. A remarkable achievement for anyone from a war-torn country, let alone for musicians who live as paraplegics in the slums of the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, [Kinshasa](#).

The South's disabled are a large population and often suffer more than even the poorest residents. It is estimated that there are 500 million disabled people in the world, with mental, physical or sensory impairment. As many as 80 percent of all

disabled people live in isolated rural areas in developing countries, and in some countries more than 20 percent of the population is classed as disabled (UN).

Obstacles are everywhere for the disabled and just being able to economically survive, let alone thrive, can be a superhuman struggle. There are many physical and social barriers in most countries which thwart full participation, and millions of children and adults live lives of segregation and degradation.

The four songwriters and musicians of Staff Benda Bilili use homemade wheelchairs to get around Kinshasa. The "wheelchairs" resemble bicycles, tricycles and motorbikes, and are a testament to the resourcefulness of the band's members. They sing about contemporary problems, like the importance of polio vaccinations - several of the band members are confined to wheelchairs because of [polio](#).

When performing, they are joined by a young group of acoustic rhythm musicians to complete their act.

One of the musicians, Roger Landu, just 17, plays a one-string lute called the satonge. He built it from old milk powder tin cans, a discarded fish basket and a single electrical wire. He builds the instruments for sale as well, charging US \$20 for each one.

Benda Bilili means "look beyond appearances" in Lingala, a Bantu language spoken in Kinshasa.

Lounging after a recent performance on his hand-built moped wheelchair, Coco Ngambali, the group's primary songwriter, told The Independent: "We see ourselves as journalists. We're the real journalists because we're not afraid of anyone. We communicate messages to mothers, to those who sleep on the streets on cardboard boxes, to the shégués (the disabled homeless)."

The band has a scrappy, street-wise persona. Being disabled, the members have had to fiercely protect their own security and economic position in society. Life on the streets for the band members, who were homeless - living near the city's zoo - when they started, involved violent attacks and frequent attempts by thieves to rob them of the few possessions they have.

Polio victims were often abandoned by their parents and left on the streets to survive in Congo. It is a double pain: the disabled are seen as possessing demonic powers and are feared by able-bodied people. With this outsider status, the disabled have developed highly creative ways to survive, working as traders on the streets.

Staunchly self-reliant, the band members built up their musical careers with no help from others and have only just recently garnered attention from European world music fans. Prior to their recent success, they would have to busk on the street near the zoo - or even across the street from the United Nations office in Kinshasa - to make money for food.

None of the band members have formal musical training and they have learned what they know by training their ears to the sound of musical notes. Their songs can be decorated with the sounds of animals commonly heard, such as chirping frogs, or just the street noise around the [zoo](#).

The powerful web video service You Tube has driven awareness of the band, as hundreds of thousands of people have viewed their videos online. Their debut album is called Très Très Fort (Very, Very Strong) and is available from [Crammed Discs](#). A feature film about Staff Benda Bilili is about to be completed by film producers Renaud Barrett and Florent de la Tullaye.

Another band with disabled members that is garnering success is [Liyana](#) from Zimbabwe. Despite the obstacles of hyperinflation, cholera, hunger and poverty in the country, the band recently completed a US tour. Their song "Never Give Up" says it all: after being rejected from the African Idol television talent contest because of their wheelchairs, they didn't let it stop them from going on to do a US tour.

Links

- E-Scape: E-Scape is a music software for performance and composition which has been developed by Drake Music in response to the needs of disabled musicians or students who cannot be catered for by other technology.
[Website: www.drakemusicproject.org](http://www.drakemusicproject.org)
- SADMA: The Southern African Disabled Musicians Association.
[Website: http://sadma.org.za/](http://sadma.org.za/)
- The United Nation's World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons.
[Website: www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

Camel Ice Cream Delivering Desert Dessert

The global food crisis is forcing people around the world to think differently about how food is produced and what new products can boost the incomes of farmers. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for food production to increase 50 percent by 2030 just to meet rising demand - and right now there are 862 million people worldwide who are undernourished (FAO).

The world's over 19.4 million camels (FAO, 2003) are now being tapped for their highly nutritious, healing and tasty milk. Camel milk is three times as rich in Vitamin C as cow's milk. And it has several unique properties that differ from other milks, like cow and buffalo. It contains enzymes with anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties to fight diseases. The milk also contains [insulin](#), a hormone that regulates blood sugar levels, something that is critical to the survival of diabetics.

With more and more areas of the world suffering from severe drought or desertification, camels' renowned ability to go without a drink of water for up to three weeks makes them ideal animals. Camels continue to lactate milk even in a dehydrated state.

The current 5.4 million tonnes of camel milk produced every year isn't enough to meet demand. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is confident, that with the right investment and innovation, camel milk has a potential market of a minimum 200 million people in the Arab world, and many millions more in Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Fresh camel milk fetches roughly US \$1 dollar a litre on African markets. A world market worth US \$10 billion is entirely within the realm of possibility, the FAO says.

"The potential is massive," said FAO dairy and meat expert Anthony Bennett. "Milk is money."

"No one is suggesting intensive camel dairy farming," said Bennett. "But just with improved feed, husbandry and veterinary care, daily yields could rise to 20 litres (per camel)."

An Indian NGO - the [Lokhit Pashu-Pala Sansthan \(LPPS\)](#), which supports landless livestock owners and means "welfare organization for livestock keepers" in Hindi - is re-inventing the business model for camel herding in India. The LPPS is a canny user of publicity and has created products that are eye-catching and instant conversation starters: camel ice cream and camel-dung paper.

Produced in the Indian state of [Rajasthan](#), the camel milk ice cream is being sold in shops and hotels. It comes in two flavours: kesar ([saffron](#)) and strawberry vanilla.

The camel is integral to the traditional way of life in Rajasthan and is the state's signature animal. India once boasted the third-largest population of camels in the world: over 1 million.

But that number has fallen to just 400,000. Grazing areas once just for camels are now being used by agriculture and wildlife sanctuaries. The camel breeders, the Raika people, have experienced a serious decline in income from camel herding, and many have sold their camels for slaughter.

If there was to be a future for camel herding in Rajasthan, new products had to be developed and the whole business of camel herding re-branded.

The ice cream is part of a two-year project to help camel breeders develop new products using camel milk. Camels are seen as ideal animals to raise in the drought-afflicted climate of Rajasthan, and can produce four to six litres of milk a day.

'With groundwater levels dropping rapidly, it spells the end of water-intensive agriculture. In this scenario, camel husbandry represents a perfect solution to the chronic water woes of the state,' said Bagdi Ram Raika, president of the Rajasthan Pastoralist Development Association.

'We would like to see the camel breeders of Rajasthan make use of their traditional assets and avail themselves of the new marketing opportunities. Our role is to support them in this,' said Hanwant Singh, director of LPPS.

The highly inventive people at LPPS have also come up with paper made from camel dung. Handmade, the notebooks, diaries and greeting cards are all made from the dung paper. The camel's dung contains undigested fibre, which makes an excellent material for making paper.

Links

- The Tiviski Dairy in Mauritania is Africa's first camel milk dairy helping semi-nomadic herders.
[Website: http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org)
- Growing Inclusive Markets, a new web portal from UNDP packed with case studies, heat maps and strategies on how to use markets to help the poor.
[Website: http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org/](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org/)
- Al Ain Dairy: In the United Arab Emirates, this dairy was the first to launch a range of camel milk ice creams for the Middle East market.
[Website: www.alaindairyuae.com](http://www.alaindairyuae.com)
- A photo essay in the New Agriculturalist shows the herders at work harvesting the milk for the ice cream.
[Website: www.new-ag.info](http://www.new-ag.info)

The Global Commonwealth of Citizens: Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy

by Danielle Archibugi, Publisher: Princeton University Press

Website: www.amazon.com

China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities

by C. Fred Bergsten, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute

Website: www.petersoninstitute.org

Challenges of Globalization: Imbalances and Growth

by Anders Aslund and Marek Dabrowski, editors, Publisher: Peterson Institute

Website: www.petersoninstitute.org

Reinventing Foreign Aid

by William Easterly, editor, Publisher: The MIT Press

Website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

Global Powers in the 21st Century

by Alexander T. J. Lennon and Amanda Kozlowski, editors, Publisher: The MIT Press

Website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

Global Development 2.0: Can Philanthropists, the Public, and the Poor Make Poverty History?

By Lael Brainard and Derek Chollet, editors, Publisher: Brookings Institution Press.

Website: www.brookings.edu/press

Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There Is Another Way for Africa

By Dambisa Moyo, Publisher: Allen Lane. In Dead Aid

Website: <http://www.deadaid.org/>

New Frontiers in Free Trade: Globalization's Future and Asia's Rising Role

by Razeen Sally, Publisher: Cato Institute.

Website: www.cato.org

World Economic Outlook: Financial Stress, Downturns, and Recoveries

Publisher: IMF

Website: www.imf.org

The Thin Blue Line: How Humanitarianism Went to War

by Christopher Davidson, Publisher: Columbia

Website: www.cato.org

Dubai: The Vulnerability of Success

by Conor Foley, Publisher: Verso

Website: www.cato.org

The Life You Can Save: Acting Now to End World Poverty

by Peter Singer, Publisher: Random House

Website: www.randomhouse.com

The Trouble With Aid: Why Less Could Mean More for Africa

by Jonathan Glennie, Published: Zed Books.

Website: www.amazon.com

Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them

by Philippe Legrain, Publisher: Abacus

Website: www.amazon.com

Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism

Edited by Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford, Publisher: Metropolis Books.

Website: www.metropolismag.com

Upcoming Events

2009

April

CALL FOR PANELS & WORKSHOPS: 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)

Doha, Qatar (17-19 April 2009)

The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009) will be held 17-19 April 2009 at Carnegie Mellon's state-of-the-art campus in Doha, Qatar. This conference will act as a focal point for new scholarship in the field of ICT and international development. Confirmed speakers include a Keynote by William H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Website: <http://www.ictd2009.org>

Engineering Sustainability 2009

Pittsburgh, USA (19-21 April 2009)

This focused conference will bring together engineers and scientists from academia, government, industry, and non-profits to share results of cutting edge research and practice directed at development of environmentally sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

Website: www.engr.pitt.edu

Carbon Trade China 2009

Beijing, China (21-23 April 2009)

This event will gather different levels of CDM owners & developers and tailor-make the conference for them. The conference attracts expectedly 600 senior executives including 300 + international leading buyers & service providers, 250+ China local CDM owner & developers, and 20+ provincial CDM service centres. 11 CDM project introduction, distinctive exhibition zones and pre-arranged "One-to-One Meeting" session are designed to facilitate the deep communications between buyers and sellers.

Website: www.chinacarbontrade.com.cn

May

Energy Efficiency Asia 2009

Beijing, China (7-8 May 2009)

Energy Efficiency Asia 2009 will invite decision-makers and world-renowned experts along with authorities, famous entrepreneurs, hi-tech providers, ESCos, financial institutions, equipment vendors and relevant sectors to gather in Beijing to discuss the future trend of Asia energy efficiency market as well as opportunities and business strategies of the energy efficiency market in Asia especially in China.

Website: www.globaleaders.com

Investing in Africa's Emerging Markets

London, UK (12 May 2009)

Focusing on the fastest emerging economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal and Angola, this major event will feature leading policy makers, economists and financiers speaking on new and growing opportunities for FDI investment in Africa.

Website: www.chathamhouse.org.uk

34th WEDC International Conference: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development and Multisectoral Approaches

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (18-22 May 2009)

The WEDC International Conference is a highly respected, global platform for practitioners, decision makers, academics and researchers who lead water and sanitation innovation in developing countries.

Website: www.wedcconference.co.uk

Sustainability Summit 2009

Santa Clara, USA (27-28 March 2009)

This event will bring together global corporate visionaries, policy makers, environmental advocacy groups, and many others to discuss how industry can work together to meet the needs of a planet in crisis.

Website: sustainabilitysummit2009.com

June

Latin America-Caribbean Regional Microcredit Summit

Cartagena, Colombia (8-10 June 2009)

The Summit will bring together microfinance practitioners to discuss how to meet the MDGs by 2015.

Website: www.regionalmicrocreditssummit2009.org

International Student Energy Summit

Calgary, Canada (11-13 June 2009)

The International Student Energy Summit (ISES) is a global forum that focuses on sustainable resource management and the role that students will play in defining the future of energy development. ISES is targeting a delegate base of 500 international, multidisciplinary post secondary students in undergraduate and graduate studies interested in energy. This event will create a network of driven individuals looking to make a difference in the energy sector.

Website: www.studentenergy.org

The Global Corporate Responsibility Reporting Summit 2009

Brussels, Belgium (11-12 June 2009)

The past decade has seen a boom in corporate social responsibility and sustainability reporting - from 360 CSR reports in 1997, to 2,820 in 2007. Now, more than ever, stakeholders are clamouring for accurate and timely corporate responsibility information. With the economic climate the way it currently is, uncovering the true value of your CSR report will pay greater dividends than ever before.

Website: www.ethicalcorp.com/globalreporting/

Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda

Marseilles, France (28-30 June 2009)

At a time when climate change is a major priority for the international community, this Symposium aims at pushing forward the research agenda on climate change from a city's perspective. It is structured around five broad research clusters which represent

the most relevant issues faced by cities and peri-urban areas on climate change.
Website: www.urs2009.net

July

Global Conference on Global Warming

Istanbul, Turkey (5-9 July 2009)

The primary themes of the conference are global warming and climate change, not only in engineering and science but also in all other disciplines (e.g. ecology, education, social sciences, economics, management, political sciences, and information technology).

Website: www.gcgw.org

September

2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference.

Washington, DC. (September 29-30, 2009)

Making Cents International is pleased to announce the 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference that will take place in Washington, DC September 29-30, 2009 at the Cafritz Conference Center. This participatory and demand-driven learning event will convene 350 leading stakeholders in the fields of youth enterprise, employment, livelihoods development, microfinance, education, and health. Members of all sectors will share their promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. Registration will open January 25th and we invite you to submit a proposal during the Call for Proposals process, which will launch February 16th.

Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org

October

Nominate (or apply to be) a 2009 Pop!Tech Social Innovation Fellow

Camden, Maine, USA (21-24 October 2009)

You know you want to be a Pop!Tech Fellow. Or you know someone who will want to be. Think you have what it takes to join this select company? Pop!Tech just announced its selection process for up to 15 next-generation world-changing people who are incubating new approaches to some of the world's toughest challenges.

Fellows participate in an all-expenses-paid, multi-day intensive development program focused on insights, tools and skills for accelerating and scaling "big bet" innovations in areas like healthcare, energy, development, mobile technology, climate, education, and civic engagement, among others. Fellows receive world-class training in areas like branding, design, measuring impact, media relations, social/Web2.0 media, finance, leadership, digital storytelling and organizational development. These sessions are led by remarkable leaders in these areas

Website: www.poptech.org/nominate

OECD 3rd World Forum: Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life

Busan, Korea (27-30 October 2009)

The next World Forum, focused on Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life will attract some 1 500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society from over 130 countries.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chqjll>

November

Impact of the Base-of-the-Pyramid Venture

Delft, Netherlands (16-18 November 2009)

The purpose of this conference is to increase BoP knowledge on value creation and impact assessments by bringing together keynote speakers and delegates from business, academia, NGOs and the public sector. The conference will provide a platform to share conceptual and empirical evidences that address ways to better understand and increase the sustainability impacts of BoP ventures in terms of changes in economic, capacity, environmental and relational well-being.

Website: www.bopimpact.nl

Appeal for Help

Delft, Netherlands (16-18 November 2009)

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: www.zoomerang.com

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and r  sum   preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: bizzlounge.com

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: businessfightspovetry.ning.com

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world"

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: community.eldis.org

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this

open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Website: [Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org/

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: www.trustafrica.org

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

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Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: [More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Funding

UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: www.unesco.org

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
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